

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 212113

43

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AS-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

----- 054331

R 172306Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHREN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 212113

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 212113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
NOVEMBER 17, 1975:

Q. IS AMBASSADOR MURPHY STILL IN WASHINGTON?

A. YES, HE IS.

Q. HOW LONG FOR?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE CONSULTATIONS ARE NOT OVER YET?

A. CORRECT.

Q. DO WE KNOW WHAT THE AGENDA WILL BE FOR THE MEETING
TUESDAY BETWEEN MR. WALDHEIM AND MR. KISSINGER?

A. NO. I DO NOT HAVE THAT EITHER.

Q. IS IT FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 212113

DISCUSSED -- AND, PARTICULARLY, THE ISSUE OF THE
ZIONIST RESOLUTION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE LATTER, BUT IT IS A VERY
FAIR ASSUMPTION TO MAKE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD ENTER
INTO THEIR DISCUSSION TOMORROW.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANYBODY

IN THE MIDDLE EAST ABOUT THE REPORTS ON BLACK-LISTING
SHIPS GOING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL?

A. NO. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING MORE ON THAT SINCE
LAST WEEK.

Q. CAN WE GO BACK TO THE SAUNDER'S STATEMENT FOR JUST
A FEW QUESTIONS? IN THE FIRST PLACE, DID THE SECRETARY
CLEAR THE STATEMENT THAT MR. SAUNDERS MADE TO THE
CONGRESS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHERHTHE SECRETARY PERSONALLY
CLEARED THAT STATEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE
ASKED MR. SAUNDERS TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY
ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AS WELL AS OUR ANALYSIS,
AND HIS STATEMENT REALLY REPRESENTED A RESTATEMENT OF
OUR POLICY.

Q. WELL, SO WE'RE NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT THE SECRETARY
ACTUALLY KNEW WHAT WAS IN THE WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT
MR. SAUNDERS PRESENTED.

A. I CANNOT SAY THAT THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY CLEARED
THE TEXT WITH MR. SAUNDERS --

Q. BUT WOULD YOU AGREE ABOUT --

A. -- BUT AS THE STATEMENT ONLY REPRESENTS A RESTATEMENT
OF OUR POLICY, THEREFORE I AM SURE THAT HE WOULD AGREE
WITH IT.

Q. WHY, IF IT REPRESENTS A RESTATEMENT, DID THE ISRAELIS
GET UPSET ABOUT IT AND FAHMI SAY THAT IT WAS WONDERFUL?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 212113

A. I DO NOT KNOW. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK MR. FAHMI AND
THE ISRAELIS.

Q. ARE WE SAYING HERE THAT -- IF THIS IS CORRECT, THAT
IT'S A RESTATEMENT -- THAT WE CONSIDERED THE PLO AS THE
MAJOR ELEMENT NOW IN THE CONTROVERSY?

A. I THINK WE STAND ON WHAT MR. SAUNDERS SAID AND
WHAT IS IN THE TEXT. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE PHRASED
IT EXACTLY THE WAY YOU ARE REPEATING IT TO ME NOW.

Q. WELL, THE ISRAELIS ARE SAYING -- IF THIS IS CORRECT,
AND YOU OUGHT TO KNOW -- THAT AMERICAN POLICY HAD BEEN

THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN AREA IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS WOULD BE SETTLED IN NEGOTIATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN. BUT THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE WAY SAUNDERS PRESENTED IT TO THE CONGRESS. AND WOULD YOU SAY THE RESTATEMENT -- WHEN WAS IT ORIGINALLY RESTATED? CAN YOU TELL US THAT?

A. WELL, I THINK, YOU KNOW, IN INNUMERABLE STATEMENTS WE HAVE STATED OUR POSITION ON THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PEACE, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IN UN RESOLUTIONS SINCE THE STATE OF ISRAEL WAS ESTABLISHED.

Q. THE PALESTINIANS, BUT NOT THE PLO.

Q. CAN YOU ASK FOR CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE ISRAELIS ON THIS INVOLVING THE PROTESTS THAT ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY REQUEST, BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND THAT THE SAUNDERS' STATEMENT WAS A RESTATEMENT OF OUR POLICY AND DID NOT SIGNAL A CHANGE.

Q. WAS THE SAUNDERS' STATEMENT SHOWN TO ANYONE AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 212113

ISRAELI EMBASSY BEFORE IT WAS DELIVERED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPLYING -- HAS AGREED TO SEND A SQUADRON OF MIG-25S TO SYRIA?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THAT REPORT, NO.

Q. HAS THE QUESTION BEEN ADDRESSED TO YOU ABOUT A REPORT ABOUT SAUDI ARABIAN F-5S IN SYRIA? HAS THIS BEEN IN REFERENCE --

A. I THINK THAT WAS RAISED LAST WEEK WHEN THE PRESS REPORT APPEARED.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER?

A. WELL, LET ME GIVE THE ANSWER TODAY. WE HAVE ONLY HAD PRESS REPORTS OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SAUDI AIRCRAFT

MIGHT BE PARTICIPATING IN MANEUVERS IN SYRIA.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS TO TRY TO FIND OUT -- EITHER TO CONFIRM OR NOT?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q. YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY?

A. NOT AS IT IS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS. THERE IS NOT ANYTHING IN MANEUVERS OF THAT KIND WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT.

Q. ARE THESE AMERICAN PLANES?

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY THIS LAST STATEMENT YOU MADE?

A. I DO NOT THINK I CAN GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 212113

Q. WELL, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT SAUDI'S PLANES IN SYRIA?

A. WELL, THERE IS NOTHING THAT PREVENTS A GOVERNMENT THAT HAS RECEIVED EQUIPMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT FROM PARTICIPATING IN MANEUVERS, AS LONG AS THE INITIAL OBLIGATION IN WHICH THEY ACCEPTED IT IS FULLY FILLED--WHICH WAS FOR LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE.

Q. I'M A LITTLE LOST HERE. IF WE ARE INVOLVED IN A LARGE SALES OF ARMS--WHICH I THINK WE ARE TO SAUDI ARABIA--AND SAUDI ARABIA PARTICIPATES IN MANEUVERS WITH SYRIA, WHICH IS A FRONT-LINE ARAB STATE--AND WE'RE ALSO SENDING ARMS TO ISRAEL--WHAT ARE WE DOING? I MEAN IF SYRIA CAN PARTICIPATE, IF SAUDI ARABIA CAN PARTICIPATE

WITH SYRIA, IS THIS NOT A CONTRIBUTION TO SYRIAN DEFENSE?

A. WELL, I DO NOT THINK IT IS, NECESSARILY; NO. I DO NOT THINK THAT NECESSARILY FOLLOWS -- IF SAUDI AIRCRAFT --

Q. WELL, THEN IT'S A SYRIAN OFFENSE. I MEAN I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.

A. WELL, I THINK THAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT; AND I DO NOT THINK THE FACT, PER SE, THAT SAUDI AIRCRAFT MAY OR MAY NOT -- AND WE DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION -- HAVE ENGAGED IN SOME KIND OF MANEUVERS IN

SYRIAN AIRSPACE VIOLATES THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THEY ACQUIRED OR PURCHASED THE AIRPLANE.

Q. THEN THERE WOULD BE NO VIOLATION, AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED, IF SAUDIS PARTICIPATED IN A SYRIAN ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL.

A. WELL, THAT IS DIFFERENT.

Q. WHY?

A. WELL, I MEAN YOU ARE MAKING AN ASSUMPTION, ON UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 212113

WHICH I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION, THAT THESE MANEUVERS SOMEHOW ARE RELATED TO AN OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT.

Q. WHERE DID THESE MANEUVERS TAKE PLACE?

A. I DO NOT EVEN KNOW THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THERE MIGHT BE MANEUVERS IN SAUDI -- PARDON ME?

Q. IS THEGE A SAUDI BRIGADE IN SYRIA NOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. ON THIS SYRIAN-SAUDI THING, CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION TOMORROW -- SAY, AS TO WHETHER THERE IS ANY SYRIAN FORCE, OR ANY SAUDI FORCE -- MILITARY FORCE IN SYRIA; WHETHER THEY ARE USING AMERICAN WEAPONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SYRIANS, AND WHETHER ANY PLANES ARE BEING USED IN ANY WAY, OR ANY OF OUR EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED IN ANY WAY, BY SYRIAN MILITARY?

A. LET ME SEE IF I CAN LOCATE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

FOR YOU.

Q. CAN I ADD TO THAT ALSO WHETHER THE MANEUVERS THAT MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE WERE JOINT MANEUVERS OR WERE SAUDI MANEUVERS?

KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE212113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MVANORDER:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750401-0229
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751136/aaaabfw.tel
Line Count: 327
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XF
To: ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006